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(Security Classification)

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM

E. E. BASSY, Taipei

REF

WEEK 48, Item 2.

OFFICE OF CHINESE

DESP. NO.

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DEC 31 1955

December 29, 1955

DATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

ACTION

DEPT.

For Dept.

For Only

REC'D

OTHER

1-3

CIA ARMY NAVY

AS INDICATED

DATE 1/1/56

SUBJECT:

General Sun Li-jen

Three papers reported on December 24 that General Sun Li-jen was finally granted an audience with President Chiang Kai-shek on December 23. The account given in the English language China News follows:

"GIMO ORDERS GEN. SUN TO READ CHINESE CLASSICS"

"President Chiang Kai-shek yesterday ordered General Sun Li-jen to spend more time to strengthen himself mentally and spiritually so that in the future he may prove himself useful to the nation again.

"The ousted general whose name was once involved with a daring Communist spy ring and who was cleared by a presidential board of enquiry was given an audience by President Chiang yesterday. General Sun was understood to have expressed his deep regrets over the case and thanked his superior for leniency and fair treatment.

"He further pledged his unswerving loyalty to the President and to the nation.

"The President was said to have told the erring general to devote his time to the research of Oriental literature, particularly of Chinese classics. He urged General Sun to study the sayings of ancient sages and scholars and prepare himself as a good soldier, especially in army training and army leadership.

"General Sun was reported to be greatly overwhelmed by the President's benevolent attitude toward him. He said he wishes to live in retirement for some time in order to spend his days in rest and study."

Although the brief story above may give an unwary reader the impression that, to all intents and purposes, the case is now closed, there still remain at least two incomplete facets in the investigation

1. Disposition of the cases of other officers placed under detention when General Sun's resignation was announced.

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G. Caprio/iwm
REPORTER

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

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2.. Submission and publication of the Control Yuan's investigation of the charges against Sun. (The WENKA under reference reported that the Control Yuan had completed its report).

In connection with No. 1 above it is recalled that on October 21, President Chiang issued an order to the authorities concerned to bring the case of the Communist agent Kuo Ting-liang to a speedy end. This order directed the authorities to "see that all the persons who have been arrested and are being detained for complicity in this case be examined and dealt with in accordance with the degree of seriousness of the respective charges against them and to bring the case to an early end."

Despite this order nothing has been announced to date concerning the other officers involved. [redacted] reports indicate that all is not well behind the scenes in this connection. According to these reports [redacted] there is considerable doubt concerning Kuo's alleged Communist connections. It is also said that the special Control Yuan report "would never be released to the public since the facts brought out by the report were different from those contained in the report by the (Presidential) Board of Inquiry." The same source, however, was quoted [redacted] as saying also that (despite the above quotation) the "conclusions in both reports were similar."

A copy of this despatch has been sent to Hong Kong.

For the Ambassador:

Paul W. Meyer

Paul W. Meyer
First Secretary of Embassy

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